

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking the time on the phone conversation of June 13, 2006, to further explain the reasoning behind rejections from the March 23, 2006, Office Action and June 5, 2006, Advisory Action and for further clarifying the rejections on a subsequent phone conversation of June 20, 2006.

In these conversations, the Examiner explained that:

(i) Although element 64 in Fig. 8A of Fraas et al. (US 5091018) is not directly under element 62, the element disclosed in Fraas et al. which is interpreted as corresponding with Applicants' claimed "first layer of the substrate" (Claim 17) is a region which includes element 64 (Fig. 8A of Fraas et al.) and also includes the areas horizontally adjacent to 64 extending to the edges of the substrate. The Examiner explained that such a layer (64 plus horizontal extensions) forms a layer comprising a second dopant and element 62 (corresponding with Applicants' surface coating) is directly over such a layer.

(ii) Even considering only the depicted limits of element 64 of Fig. 8A of Fraas et al., Applicants' explanation in the specification (page 7, lines 16-18) that the term "disposed over" as used by Applicants is not restricted to a layer being directly over another layer is interpreted to mean that element 62 of Fig. 8A (Fraas et al.) is considered to be disposed over element 64.

(iii) The process of Claim 17 is being interpreted to include formation of the first layer after formation of the surface coating.

Applicants' arguments regarding such interpretations were not considered by the Examiner to be persuasive.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have amended Claim 17 to more clearly define Applicants' invention by clarifying the chronology between elements (a) and (b). Support for the amendment can be found on page 9, lines 16-19, as well as elsewhere in the Application.

Applicants have added new Claim 31 which is within the elected species. The new Claim is supported in the Application and no new matter has been

added. For example, support for new Claim 31 can be found on page 9, lines 16-21.

Claim rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 17, 21 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Fraas et al. (US 5091018). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Fraas et al. discloses a process wherein an insulating layer is formed over an upper surface of a substrate; a portion of the insulating layer is then removed after which the exposed portion of the substrate is doped with a p-type dopant (col. 6, lines 36-62). In contrast, Claim 17, as amended, specifies the step of disposing a surface coating over the first layer which necessarily requires a first layer to be formed at the time of or before forming a surface coating. Fraas et al. does not disclose a process wherein a surface coating is disposed as recited in amended Claim 17 and, therefore, Fraas et al. does not anticipate amended Claims 17 and 21.

With respect to Claim 28, in addition to the above, Fraas et al. discloses that the surface coating is formed on the upper surface (col. 6). In addition to an upper surface and back surface, the substrate of Fraas et al. has an edge surface (Figs. 2, 4, 7 and 8A-8E). Fraas et al. has no disclosure regarding any surface coating on edges of the substrate. Fraas et al. does not disclose a process wherein only a back surface of the substrate is free or substantially free of the surface coating as claimed by Applicants in Claim 28. Therefore, Fraas et al. does not anticipate Claim 28.

The Examiner rejected Claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraas et al. (US 5091018) in view of Rittner (US 4135950). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Fraas et al. and Rittner do not teach or suggest all of the features of the Claims as amended.

Claims 18-20 depend from amended Claim 17 and so include the amended process steps in Claim 17 which, as noted above, are not taught or suggested by Fraas et al. and such missing disclosure is not cured by Rittner. For example, neither Fraas et al. nor Rittner, alone or in combination, teach or suggest disposing a surface coating over the first layer such that a back surface

of the substrate is free or substantially free of the surface coating. Therefore, Claims 18-20 are patentable over Fraas et al. in view of Rittner.

With respect to Claim 19, in addition to the reasons above, Rittner does not teach or suggest removing texture from the back surface of the substrate. The sections of Rittner cited by the Examiner in the March 23, 2006, Office Action do not disclose removing texture from the back surface of the substrate because there is no disclosure of the back surface ever having been textured in the first place.

In fact, Rittner specifies that the back surface not be textured because the back surface of the substrate is masked prior to etching to protect it from etching (col. 2, lines 18-21). The precise etching parameters are critical to Rittner's disclosure (col. 2, lines 56-59) and, therefore, one of skill in the art is led away from modifying the etching process of Rittner to achieve Applicants' etched back surface and subsequent removal of the etching from the back surface. There is no disclosure that would teach or suggest to a person of skill in the art that the back surface of a substrate textured and then the texture is removed as claimed by Applicants in Claim 19.

For the reasons above, Applicants believe that the pending Claims 17-21, 28 and 31 are in condition for allowance. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's reconsideration of this matter and respectfully request that the Examiner pass the instant application for allowance.

If the Examiner has any question regarding this paper, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,



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